

Act Number: 09-196



2009

Bill Number: 6041

Senate Pages: 6090, 6100-6102

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House Pages: 5083-5099

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Committee: Planning and Development:
273, 275-276, 304, 312, 452

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Page Total:

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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There's a motion on the floor to place Calendar number 678 on the Consent Calendar. Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Continuing Calendar page 13, Calendar 679, House Bill 6279, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor to place Calendar number 679 on the Consent Calendar. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. And continuing Calendar page 13, Calendar 682, House bill 6041, move to place the item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

There's a motion on the floor to place Calendar number 682 -- I thought Senator Fasano was running to do something there -- Calendar 682 on the Consent Calendar. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Moving to Calendar page 14, Calendar 692, House bill 6248, move to place the

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Back on Calendar page 18, Calendar 719, House Bill 6676 is marked go and Calendar page 33, Calendar 354, Senate bill 499 is marked go.

Yes, Mr. President, thank you. At this point if the Clerk might call the items on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please call the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

Mr. President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on Senate Agenda number one, Substitute for House bill 5211, Substitute for House bill 6672 and Senate bill 880.

From Senate Agenda number two, Substitute for House bill 6481 and Senate bill 1128.

Going to Senate Calendar, calendar page 229, Substitute for Senate bill 549. Calendar 229, substitute for Senate bill 547. Calendar page 7,

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Calendar 602, substitute for House bill 6584.

Calendar page 10, Calendar 639, House bill 6684.

Calendar page 12, Calendar 667, substitute for House bill 6539. Calendar page 13, Calendar 678, substitute for House bill 6306. Calendar 679, substitute for House bill 6279 and Calendar 682, substitute for House bill 6041. Calendar page 14, Calendar 692, House bill 6248. Calendar page 15, Calendar 700, substitute for House bill 6693. Calendar 701, substitute for House bill 6642. Calendar page 17, Calendar 714, substitute for House bill 6280. Calendar page 21, Calendar 735, House bill 6523. Calendar page 26, Calendar 337, Senate bill 1047.

THE CHAIR:

Sir, I believe that was 377.

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. President, Calendar 377, Senate bill 1047. And Calendar page 33, Calendar 378, substitute for Senate bill 1048. Mr. President, that completes the items placed on the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Please call for Roll Call vote.

Please call for a Roll Call vote on Consent number

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one, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by Roll Call on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber? The Senate is now voting by Roll Call. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? If all Senators have voted, please check your vote, the machine will be locked, the Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number One.

Total number voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number One passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President, would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives

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coach is one of the assistant coaches. We're very proud of all of our kids in Monroe and in Masuk.

Thank you, sir.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Hewett.

REP. HEWETT (39th):

Mr. Speaker, there's two players that I forgot that weren't on the list. Zachary Williams, defensive line backer and David Sabilia of Waterford High School. And the other one was from Wolcott. Give them a hand.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

No further announcements or introductions, we'll return to the Calendar.

And will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 237.

THE CLERK:

State of Connecticut House of Representatives,
Calendar for Wednesday, May 20, 2009. On Page 33,
Calendar Number 237, Substitute for House Bill Number
6041 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENTS AND

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ASSESSMENT APPEALS. Favorable Report of the Committee
on Appropriations.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Brendan Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint
Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is acceptance of the Joint
Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of
the things that we learned over the course of the last
year as part of our Smart Growth work was the fact
that we need to make Connecticut a much more friendly,
accessible place for small businesses.

This Bill will help to accomplish that goal.
Currently, boards of assessment appeals when reviewing
property tax appeals for commercial properties, are

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allowed to exempt any property that is appealed whose value is in excess of \$500,000.

What we, what this Bill does is raise that threshold to \$1 million. It's very expensive to not have a local, for a small business to not have a local review of their tax appeal and have to go straight to Superior Court with their appeal.

Superior Court costs are very expensive, plus the Superior Court always requires a typically a several thousand dollar appraisal of the property before any negotiations can take place on the ultimate outcome of the tax appeal.

So what this Bill does is say that a local board of assessment appeals can only exempt commercial properties that exceed \$1 million. We have a lot of small businesses who have properties that fall within that range of \$500,000 to \$1 million. This will enable those small businesses to get at least a review at the local level before having to take it to Superior Court, and I would urge my colleagues to support the Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the Bill? Representative Chapin.

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REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Clerk has an amendment, LCO Number 5968. I ask that it be called and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 5968, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5968, House "A", offered by Representatives Miner, Candelora, and Chapin.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection to summarization? Representative Chapin, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment simply deletes Section 1 of the Bill, and I move adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the amendment?

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very simply, Section 1 of the Bill would require our board of assessment appeals members to be trained in this Section, This amendment strikes that Section to take out the requirement for that training, and it also obviously eliminates any fiscal cost associated with that, and I would encourage my colleagues to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on the amendment? Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to rise in support of the amendment. We, on the one hand want to make sure that we are avoiding the fiscal cost and the fiscal note associated with Section 1 of the Bill.

We also don't want to this year be imposing mandates on our towns and cities that may lead to additional costs at the local level, so I support the amendment.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Aman.

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REP. AMAN (14th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is going to be a series of probably three or four different amendments going to be offered by both Republicans and Democrats on this Bill. I believe all of them are going to be considered friendly amendments by both myself and the Chairman, and on all of the amendments, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Noujaim.

Will you remark further on the House Amendment Schedule "A"? Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "A"?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

All opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the Bill?

Representative Sharkey. Representative Hovey.

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REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment. I'd ask the Clerk to please call LCO Number 6865, and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 6865, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "B".

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 6865, House "B", offered by
Representatives Hovey, Sharkey, Sawyer and Ryan.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Representative Hovey, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all across the state this year there have been tremendous issues with re-evaluations and assessments, and in my pursuit to get to the bottom of some different issues that my community has had, it came to my attention that there were some issues that had to do with transparency and accountability.

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So This amendment would require the assessor to document any changes that they make after the revaluation company has made their recommendations, and that that change would be specifically put on the property card so that the individuals in the communities would be able to see what exactly had prompted the changes to their evaluations, and it would make for a more transparent and open government.

I move for adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the amendment? I mean, House Amendment Schedule "B".

Sorry. Will you remark on the amendment?

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of This amendment. I think Representative Hovey has done a good job of flushing out the issues that are involved in this, and I would urge my colleagues to support This amendment as well.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the amendment, House Amendment Schedule "B"? Remark on House Amendment Schedule "B".

If not, I will try your minds. All in favor of the amendment please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

All those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and the next in line of amendments that are going to be brought up on this Bill, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO Number 7741. I ask that it be called and I be given leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 7741, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "C".

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 7741, House "C", offered by Representatives Sharkey, Sawyer, et al.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection to summarization? Representative Sharkey, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, This amendment simply clarifies what I think is common practice throughout the state, but apparently has not been applied evenly by our assessors.

It simply says that when someone brings an assessment appeal and wins an adjustment to their assessment by the local assessor, whether it's through the local board of assessment appeals or through court, that that change in the assessment shall remain in effect until the next reval occurs in that town.

Apparently there have been a couple of examples of situations where the assessor has granted the adjustment to the taxes in the year that it was claimed on appeal, but then reverted back to the old value in the second year and subsequent years.

So this is just to clarify that our laws require that that change assessment stays in effect until the next reval, and I urge adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "C". Will you remark on the amendment? Will you remark on the amendment?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of House Amendment "C" signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

All opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Representative McCluskey.

REP. McCLUSKEY (20th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an Amendment, LCO Number 7274. I would ask that he call and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 7274, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "D".

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 7274, House "D", offered by Representatives McCluskey and Staples.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection? Is

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there objection? Representative McCluskey, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. McCLUSKEY (20th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, This amendment does two things.

First of all, I want to thank Representative Sharkey, Representative Staples and the Office of Policy and Management for working on this.

The first section of the amendment essentially makes effective on passage a Bill that this Chamber did earlier this year, which would allow municipalities to delay reval.

Mr. Speaker, my Town of West Hartford, and I know other towns like Old Saybrook have wanted that section of that Bill to do it on passage to allow town councils and boards of selectmen to approve the suspension of the property tax phase in and adjust the mil rate accordingly. This would allow the towns to do that before the tax bills are sent out.

Mr. Speaker, the second part of the amendment is something that the Office of Policy and Management wanted, which essentially repeals a public Section 8 of Public Act 06-148, which was a working group on property tax issues.

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It's my understanding from OPM that the working group had met several times. They had issued a report earlier this year and there's no anticipation that this task force will do any more work, and so this is just repealing an obsolete statute at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "D". Will you remark on the amendment? Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good afternoon.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Mr. Speaker, through you to the Deputy Speaker, Representative McCluskey, a question if I may.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

Thank you. Representative McCluskey by this, bringing it back or making it effective October 1, 2008, does this mean that if an entity has already

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appealed to the tax assessor on their assessment and the appeal was denied, do they have the right now if this Bill passes, to go back to last year and ask for that appeal to be heard?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative McCluskey.

REP. McCLUSKEY (20th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, House Amendment "D" does not do anything regarding that. We had passed a Bill earlier in this Chamber that allowed municipalities to delay reval, and unfortunately, because the effective date of that provision was July 1, what it did would preclude town councils and boards of education, excuse me, boards of selectmen from enacting that and making that change before the tax bills are normally going out on July 1.

So that's the only thing that This amendment does. It doesn't affect the item that the gentleman from Waterbury inquired about. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And through you, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize. I had it on my computer, and then it went into sleep, but the question that I have is, because it says in here from passage and retroactive to, I believe, July 1, 2008.

Are we not saying that now, unless I cannot see it any more now on my computer, I apologize if I do.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative McCluskey.

REP. McCLUSKEY (20th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. All This amendment does, the first part of it does, is Section 1 of Senate Bill Number 997 that this Chamber passed earlier this year will be effective on passage, and it does not affect assessments in any way.

This just allows town councils and boards of selectmen, if they choose to delay reval, to enact it and make a decision on it before the tax bills go out. That's all This amendment does. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Noujaim.

REP. NOUJAIM (74th):

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, now I have the language. I'm okay. I appreciate it. Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the amendment? Will you remark further on House Amendment Schedule "D"?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

All those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the Bill as amended?
Will you remark further on the Bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll Call. Members to the Chamber.

The House is voting by Roll Call. Members to the Chamber, please.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

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Have all the Members voted? Have all the Members voted? Please check the Roll Call board to make sure your vote has been properly cast.

If all the Members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 6041 as amended by House Schedules "A", "B", "C", and "D".

Total Number Voting	137
Necessary for Passage	69
Those voting Yea	137
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	14

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 225.

THE CLERK:

On Page 32, Calendar Number 225, Substitute for House Bill Number 6582 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP. Favorable Report of the Committee on Public Health.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Steve Fontana.

**JOINT
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**PLANNING AND
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 11w PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
 COMMITTEE

February 18, 2009
 11:00 A.M.

of payment of property taxes then it -- in the control of the city then maybe we're well protected, but if it's a piece of private property that is just sitting there because the owner hasn't had a development opportunity for it yet, then we have a problem here, and I'm not sure what the solution is. But I agree with you that the community gardens are a very important part of urban community life, and they really should be promoted if there is a way to do this.

REP. REED: Thank you. As Representative Sharkey says, one size certainly doesn't fit all.

Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

MARTIN MADOR: And I agree and perhaps that's why the enabling legislation sends this to each individual town to decide how to implement this within the guidelines set by the Legislature. Perhaps that's the way to do this.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Any other questions?

Seeing none, thank you, Marty.

MARTIN MADOR: Thank you.

SENATOR COLEMAN: Bonnie Stewart to be followed by Chief Salvatore.

BONNIE STEWART: Good afternoon, my name is Bonnie Stewart and I'm vice president of government affairs with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. I'd like to comment on a couple of bills before you today. I've submitted written testimony on 13, but I'd like to focus my attention on a couple of topics and a couple specific bills.

SB 369
SB 379
SB 392
HB 5553
HB 6041
HB 5868

position in favor of it or against it at this time. We've got concerns regarding it, but we've just never been shown that it really works in, as you pointed out, all communities. It's definitely not a one-size-fits-all approach. And some of the communities in Pennsylvania that adopted it have since repealed it, we understand. Our biggest concern with it at this point really is we're not even in a credit crunch, we're in a credit draught. So implementing something like this when we don't know what's going to happen with the economy over the next several years and especially with credit over the next several years could really be problematic simply because people may not have access to the monies they need to develop those properties.

So I would just ask that you look at that carefully before you move forward with that measure. Keep in mind the economic situation we're in right now and particularly the credit because very often or I should say very rarely businesses have the money to fully fund a project without borrowing some of those funds. So that's an issue too we'd like to bring to your attention.

I've submitted comments on all of the local option taxes. We've got concerns there as well that we'd like you to keep in mind before you move forward on that. We'd actually like to understand fully the impact of implementing local sales tax, local income taxes, et cetera, before we move forward with that. And we haven't seen anything in Connecticut that's shown its actual impact.

I'd like to talk about a couple of positive bills that you have on the agenda as well. One of them concerns the assessment appeals

HB 5553
HB 6041

hearings. You've got a measure there, actually you've got two that that do the exact opposite thing. You've got House Bill 5553 which you would actually reduce people's rights for hearings when it comes to property tax assessment or property assessment hearings, and that one we oppose strongly. We don't think people's rights should be reduced further.

But then on the other side you've got a second bill on the assessment which is House Bill 6041, an act concerning hearings in certain assessment appeals. That would actually allow more people to have hearings on their assessment appeals, and that's something that we're very supportive of. We have a lot of small businesses that don't have the larger more valuable land parcels or personal property, et cetera, and they are blocked out of those hearings because they are commercial property but they don't have that higher figure right now. Lowering it would give them the same opportunity that a lot of the larger employers have, and it's something we would be very supportive of.

The other measure that we're very supportive of is House Bill 5868, an act concerning economic development teams. A couple of years ago I had the real -- it was really very much a great opportunity and that I got to go out and speak with a lot of site locators and I learned a lot in those visits. I found out the things that companies look for when they are trying to do businesses with states and municipalities, where they are deciding they are going to locate, why they decide to locate. One of the things that came up with every single site locator I met with was the ability of local economic development



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**TESTIMONY
BONNIE STEWART
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

Good afternoon. My name is Bonnie Stewart. I am vice president for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents over 10,000 companies in the state ranging from large industrial corporations to small businesses with one or two employees. The vast majority of our members, about 90 percent, are employers with fewer than 50 employees.

I am here today to comment on a number of proposals. They include:

- SB-369 AAC A Homestead Exemption For Real Property Taxes.
- SB-376 AA Authorizing Differentiated Mill Rates In Municipalities.
- SB-379 AAC Land Value Taxation.
- SB-385 AAC Municipal Alternatives To The Property Tax.
- SB-392, AA Authorizing Municipalities To Adopt Land Value Taxation.
- SB-393, AAC Municipal Revenue Diversification.
- SB-397, AAC Municipal Revenue Diversification.
- HB-5540, AAC Municipal Revenue Diversification.
- HB-5542, AA Authorizing Towns To Levy Certain Taxes.
- HB-5553, AAC Appeals To The Local Board Of Assessment Appeals.
- HB-5868, AAC Economic Development Teams (Support)
- HB-6041, AAC Hearings In Certain Assessment Appeals
- HB-6042, AA Authorizing The Voluntary Merger Of Adjacent Towns

These measures cover a wide range of issues. I have grouped them into five categories: homestead exemption; local option taxes; land value taxation; assessment appeal hearings; and economic development opportunity and regional efficiency.

Testimony of Bonnie Stewart, CBIA

HB-5553 and HB-6041

Assessment Appeal Hearings

There are two measures before the Committee today that impact the rights of certain property tax owners. They are:

- HB-5553, AAC Appeals To The Local Board Of Assessment Appeals (Oppose)
- HB-6041, AAC Hearings In Certain Assessment Appeals (Support).

CBIA **opposes** the first bill, HB-5553, as it seeks to reduce the rights of certain property owners by reducing the opportunity for certain property owners to have hearings on their assessment appeals. This measure would raise the worth of assessed property an assessment appeal hearing on commercial, industrial, utility or apartment property for which an assessment board may elect not to hold a hearing.

We oppose reducing these property owners' rights and urge you to reject HB-5553 and instead **support** HB-6041, which would reduce worth of assessed property necessary to be eligible for such a hearing. This would permit smaller employers to have the same rights as some of the larger employers in the state.

Please **reject** HB-5553 and **adopt** HB-6041.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PLANNING AND
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PART 2
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THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 18, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities:

Prop. H. B. 6041, "An Act Concerning Hearings in Certain Assessment Appeals"

CCM opposes this bill as an unfunded state mandate.

CCM is concerned that this proposal is counter to providing towns and cities with more authority over local processes.

H.B. 6041 would likely have the effect of requiring additional hearings, which may result in additional local costs.

CCM urges the committee to take no action on this proposal.

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For more information, please contact Jim Finley, Gian-Carl Casa or Ron Thomas of CCM at (203) 498-3000.